departments and offices and several non-official gentlemen. Copies of the Administration Report for 1086 M. E., and of the Memoranda of Subjects, in English and Malayalam, were distributed among the Members.

The Dewan opened the Assembly with the following

ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN,

It is my pleasant duty, under command of His Highness the Maharajah, to welcome you to the Eighth Session of the Assembly. Copies of the Administration Report for 1086—in English and in Malayalam—will, as usual, be placed in your hands. I trust that the report will enable you to see clearly how the administration was conducted during the year, and I also trust that the facts and figures given in the report will be useful to you in making your representations.

2. **Casualties.**—Among the high officers of the State, Mr. R. S. Lepper, the Professor of History and Economics in His Highness the Maharajah's College, went on leave in Chingam 1086, and subsequently retired. He was the first occupant of the Chair of History and Economics in the College. Widely read and highly cultured, Mr. Lepper was able, by his great zeal and earnestness, to create in the minds of his students a genuine love for the subjects he taught, and the high ideal of conduct he placed before them was calculated to raise the general tone of the College in which he served. In the Public Works Department, I grieve to record the deaths of Executive Engineers Messrs. S. Lysaught and V. Anantanarayana Iyer, both of them officers who, by their good work, had gained the confidence of their Chief Engineer as well as of the Government.

3. **Financial.**—The year 1086 was, on the whole, a prosperous one. The Revenue, which had been steadily rising for a series of years, again went up, and reached the high figure of Rs. 1,28,09,000. The Expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,18,62,000 ; the result was a Surplus of Rs. 9,47,000. Against this, however, had to be set off four items of Abnormal Losses, which were finally written off during the year, aggregating to Rs. 4,28,000. The Net Surplus was Rs. 5,19,000. The Government Balance went up by this amount, *i. e.*, from Rs. 67,46,000 to Rs. 72,65,000. For further details in regard to the transactions of the year, I would refer you to Chapter II of the report and also to the Appendices II to VI.

4. **Main Heads of Revenue.**—I shall now proceed to deal briefly with the main heads of revenue. Taking the "Land Revenue" first, the demand of the year (including the arrears of previous years) was Rs. 38,31,000, out of which the sum of Rs. 36,99,000 was collected, and Rs. 32,000 written off, the recoverable balance at the end of the year being Rs. 1,00,000. This is the lowest balance we have at any time had. The undoubtedly good collection of work of the year was achieved with very little of coercive action, for, though so many as 57,393 demand notices were issued, and though properties were distrained or attached in 956 cases, actual sales took place in only 77 cases. A great deal of attention was paid during the year to Land Records Maintenance work, the results achieved in the Padmanabhapuram and Trivandrum Divisions being good. The administration of the "Forest Revenue" showed satisfactory progress. The forests of the State have, for some years now,

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